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"THE HAUNTED HOUSE."

A flock of burgler mice were running riot with the ice-box in the old farmer's house. In fact they were just about getting away with murder and had already gotten away with grand larceny.

The farmer's police cat slept in the lower bureau drawer, up in the attic. This cat cop was past master of the great and manly art of "stalling". When the burgler alarm rang and the cop's hat dropped on his head, then in order to kill time, he finds he has to wash his hands and face. When he has found his club and started out, he decides to come back and clean his teeth.

So the result is that ALL the mice get away with all the spoils of the ice-box. But, perhaps, as things turn out, it's just as well that the cat cop did take his time, cause the out-law mice in this house were fierce. In a very short time they had the cat knocked cold, bound and gagged and then threw him down a long narrow chute to a dungeon where more of these unscrupulous mice tied him firmly to a chair to choke slowly to death.

Now these villainous mice are free to carry on just as they please, so they start right in by tantalizing the poor old defenseless farmer himself. They pull off his bed clothes, then they frighten him by moving white gloves around the room. All in all, he is scared of his bed, he falls thru the floor into a tub of ice cold water, then he decides to step out side for a breath of fresh air and try to get help, the darn critters run away with his doorsteps and spill him all over the ground.

When the poor stupid farmer goes back to his house, he finds the mice using his own vacuum cleaner and they were clearing the house of all his furniture with it. He takes the thing away from them and uses it to capture the mice with. This stunt works fine for a while, then a few of the very wise mice work out a scheme of tying a cord to the farmer's feet and taking it thru the house threading it thru the stair steps and then bringing the other end back and letting the farmer take it thru the vacuum. The result of this; when the cord tightened was to drag the farmer all thru the house and finally into his own vacuum. Then the darn machine blew up, even throwing the house into the air. When all the smoke cleared away, the dizzy farmer started to a swan dance. When the vacuum machine comes down and covers him, the farmer, when he is in a trance, tries to grab the escaping mice.

AESOP SAYS:-

"Circumstances and Bootleggers alter cases."

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